Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-84. (Canceled)

85. (Previously Presented) A nucleic acid-lipid particle, comprising a lipid layer surrounding and encapsulating a central region containing a polyanionic nucleic acid, wherein said lipid layer comprises (i) an amino lipid comprising an amino group having a pK_a of from 4 to 11, and (ii) a polyethyleneglycol-diacylglycerol (PEG-DAG) conjugate.

86. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said amino lipid is selected from the group consisting of: (1,2-dioleyloxy-3-dimethylamino-propane (DODAP), N,N-dimethyl-2,3-dioleyloxy)propylamine (DODMA), and a mixture thereof.

87. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, neutral lipid selected from the group consisting of dioleoylphosphatidylethanolamine (DOPE), palmitoyloleoylphosphatidylcholine (POPC), distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC), sphingomyelin and a mixture thereof.

88. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, further comprising cholesterol.

89. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 88, wherein said cholesterol constitutes from 35% to 55% of the total lipid present in said particle.

90. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said amino lipid constitutes from 10% to 40% of the total lipid present in said particle.

91. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said amino lipid constitutes from 10% to 35% of the total lipid present in said particle.

92. (Canceled)

93. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said PEG-DAG conjugate constitutes from 0.5% to 15% of the total lipid present in said particle.

94. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, further comprising a neutral lipid, wherein said neutral lipid is distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC).

95. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said amino lipid is N,N-dimethyl-2,3-dioleyloxy)propylamine (DODMA), and wherein said nucleic acid-lipid particle further comprises distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC) and a sterol.

96. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 95, wherein said sterol is cholesterol.

97. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said polyanionic nucleic acid is DNA.

98. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said polyanionic nucleic acid is a plasmid.

99. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said polyanionic nucleic acid is an antisense oligonucleotide.

100. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said polyanionic nucleic acid is a ribozyme.

101. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said polyanionic nucleic acid encodes a therapeutic product of interest.

102. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 101, wherein said therapeutic product of interest is a peptide or protein.

103.-104. (Canceled)

105. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said polyanionic nucleic acid is fully encapsulated in said nucleic acid-lipid particle.

106. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

107. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 106, wherein said amino lipid is N,N-dimethyl-2,3-dioleyloxy)propylamine (DODMA) and wherein said nucleic acid-lipid particle further comprises distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC) and a sterol.

108. (Previously Presented) A method of introducing a nucleic acid into a cell, said method comprising contacting said cell with a nucleic acid-lipid particle according to claim 85.

109. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, further comprising a sterol.

110. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 107, wherein said sterol is cholesterol.

111. (New) The nucleic acid lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said polyanionic nucleic acid contains at least one modified internucleotidic linkage selected from the group consisting of: phosphorothioate, phosphorodithioate, phosphoroselenate, boranophosphate, methylphosphate and O-alkyl phosphotriester linkages.

112. (New) The nucleic acid lipid particle in accordance with claim 111, wherein said polyanionic nucleic acid contains exclusively phosphorothiate linkages.

113. (New) The nucleic acid lipid particle in accordance with claim 85, wherein said polyanionic nucleic acid contains exclusively phosphodiester linkages.